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#### ALEXANDER FORTIE AND RACHEL HOWARTH FORTIE GILES



Rachel Howarth Fortie Giles was born April 19, 1850, in Boulton, Lancashire, England. She is the daughter of John Howarth and Ellen Monks Howarth. She married Alexander Fortie on December 31, 1868, in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. He contracted pneumonia and died April 23, 1890. In March, 1893, she married William M. Giles, a widower with a family of 10 children, eight of whom lived at home. The youngest was only five years old.

Rachel Howarth Fortie Giles died in He-

ber City, Utah, January 5, 1943, age 93.

At the age of 18, Rachel Howarth came to Utah from Lancashire, England, with her mother's family. She was but four years of age when her father died, so that she grew to womanhood without the protecting care of a father.

Like the other members of the family, and at an early age had to go out to service and work to help her mother maintain the home. She was the tenth child in a family of twelve and had one sister and a brother younger than she. She was betrothed to Alexander Fortie in England, and he came to Utah a year before to earn money to send for her. She was a very beautiful and attractive young girl, with dark hair and sparkling black eyes, and always dressed in neat and becoming clothing. Mr. Fortie was employed on the railroad at Echo, Utah, and the Howarth family went to Wanship to reside. Rachel had many boy friends call to see her and was a favorite among the younger class. Upon hearing of this, Alexander left his work, came to Wanship, and they were married December 31, 1868, in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. Soon after, they moved to Heber City and established a home. Alexander found employment as a carpenter and made a comfortable living from then on. Many of the substantial buildings in Heber City stand as monuments of his labor, particularly the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, of which he was the architect, and under his direction and supervision it was erected. He contracted pneumonia and died April 23, 1890, leaving Rachel a widow with her three children, two daughters and a son. The two daughters married, leaving Rachel and her son, John A., at home.

In March, 1893, she married William M. Giles, a widower with a family of ten children, eight of them at home and the youngest only five years of age. This was a tremendous undertaking for her, but she tackled the job with a determination to make a comfortable home for her husband and his motherless children, which she accomplished very well. She and her husband provided for them until all of them had homes of their own. The flour bin and bread can were never empty.

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#### WILLIAM AND SARAH GILES

William Giles was born January 1, 1797, at Gunerson, near London, England. He married Sarah Huskinson of Bridgeford in 1820. He and his sons were brick masons by trade.

In 1840, he and his family were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They were preparing to come to Utah. On March 21, 1854, a message was sent to William, telling him that he and his family were to be in Liverpool in 24 hours, that the ship they were to board was to set sail for America. The children were sent to Liverpool at once, but William and Sarah remained at home a number of hours to take care of last-minute duties and business. When the children, Thomas H., and wife: Fredrick, John, Mary, Emma, Kezia and William Jr., arrived at the Huskinson docks, Fredrick and John went into town to buy supplies to take on their journey. When they returned with the supplies the captain of the ship ordered all aboard, for the ship would sail in an hour. Many of the saints told the captain that all members of their families had not yet arrived, but the captain said, "This ship sails in one hour if there is only one soul aboard." William and Sarah Giles had not arrived, so their children took their baggage aboard. The captain, being a man of his word, raised the gangplank in an hour. That night as they looked toward the lights from the docks, they were unhappy, because their parents were not with them on the ship. The next evening, about sundown, a sailing vessel was seen coming toward them. When it reached the big ship "Old England" there were many happy hearts, for the sailing vessel was carrying many of the saints who were left behind. William and Sarah were with them.

When all were on board the ship "Old England," the little vessel turned and sailed back to England, and the big ship carrying William and Sarah and their family sailed toward Zion.

They arrived at New Orleans, where William Giles and family and many of the other saints boarded the steamboat "St. Nicholes," and it sailed up the Mississippi River as far as St. Louis. Here they were examined by a doctor before they could go

ashore. It was found that there were more passengers on the ship than should be, so the doctor and the captain of the ship quarantined the passengers. William found that it was only the Mormons who were quarantined. So the Giles family and all of the saints were told they must wash all clothing and other articles before they could enter the city. They washed for two days.

On the 12th of the month, William and Sarah and family were allowed to enter the city of St. Louis. They were met there by their daughter, Elizabeth Giles Rashand, who, with their family and brother George and his family, had come to America a few years previous. After a few hours' stay in St. Louis they left Quincy, where their daughter Elizabeth was living.

Some members of the family remained in Quincy and found employment. Others went to Burlington, Iowa, where their son George and his family lived. Here the remainder of William's family found employment.

In two years all members of the Giles family came to Burlington and made preparations to cross the plains for Utah. They reached Council Bluffs and on June 5th they commenced their journey for Zion.

William, Sarah and family arrived in Salt Lake City, Saturday, August 15, 1856.

Due to hardships and exposure, Sarah, the mother of this family, died September 5, 1857, at the age of 57. She was buried in Provo Cemetery. Two years later William and his family, with the exception of John, came to Provo Valley.

William Giles married Mary Ann Day. Their home was a three-room log house, located where the Orson Roberts home now stands.

Mary Ann died on December 5, 1874. William died just 10 days later. They are buried in Heber City Cemetery.

#### WILLIAM ALBERT CAPENER HANKS

William Albert Capener Hanks was born February 17, 1859, in Salt Lake City, son of Ephraim Knowland and Jane Maria Capener Hanks. He married Elizabeth Louisa Murdock in May, 1880, in Salt Lake City. She was born May 27, 1860, daughter of Nymphas C. and Esther Davis Murdock. William died August 1, 1911.

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BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

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